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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 29 are pending. Claims 17 to 29 are canceled.
No claims are allowed.

1. In Fig. 3, the following changes have occurred: 1) the lead line for numeral "68" has been changed to indicate the edge of plate 66, the lead line for numeral "70" has been changed to indicate the step of plate 66, and the lead line for numeral "80" has been changed to indicate the feedthrough wire for terminal block 12. In Fig. 9, numeral "186" indicating the side passageway paired with passageway 188 has been changed to 187. Corrected drawings accompany this amendment.

Acceptance of the corrected drawing changes is requested.

2. Claims 1 to 16 are drawn to a header assembly (Group I) and claims 17 to 29 are drawn to a method of connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor (Group II). The Examiner indicates restriction of the claim groups is appropriate because the header assembly can be made by using a grinding/boring technique. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

For example, independent claim 1 calls for "a terminal . . . connected to a distal end of the feedthrough wire," and "a body . . . supporting the terminal for connecting to the lead." The Applicants do not understand how the header assembly can be shaped by grinding and boring the polymeric

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material when the polymeric material encases (supports) the terminal. The terminal must be properly positioned before the polymeric material partially encases it, but allowing the terminal to be "directly connectable to a lead for the conductor". Grinding and boring techniques are not practicable, as they would surely damage the terminal.

Nonetheless, if the Examiner is adamant on his position, the Applicants request examination of claims 1 to 16. Claims 17 to 29 are canceled, with traverse.

Reconsideration of this restriction requirement is requested.

A substantive examination on the merits of the claims is requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,


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